
SENATE BILL 6359

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Pflug, Keiser, Fairley, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/15/08. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to dental care delivery; and creating a new
2 section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The health care authority and the
5 department of social and health services shall, by September 1, 2008,
6 develop a five-year plan to change the way dental care is delivered and
7 reimbursed within their health care programs to:

8 (a) Reward quality dental outcomes rather than simply paying for
9 the receipt of particular services or procedures;

10 (b) Pay for care that reflects patient preference and is of proven
11 value;

12 (c) Require the use of evidence-based standards of care where
13 available;

14 (d) Tie provider rate increases to measurable improvements in
15 access to quality care;

16 (e) Direct enrollees to quality care systems; and

17 (f) Better support primary prevention and provide a dental care
18 provider to all enrollees through reimbursement policies that create
19 incentives for enrollees to enter and remain in a dental practice.

1 (2) In developing any component of the plan that links payment to
2 dental care provider performance, the authority and the department
3 shall work in collaboration with the department of health, dental
4 carriers, local public health jurisdictions, dentists and other health
5 care providers, the Puget Sound health alliance, and other purchasers.

6 (3) The plan shall (a) identify any existing barriers and
7 opportunities to support implementation, including needed changes to
8 state or federal law; (b) identify the goals the plan is intended to
9 achieve and how progress toward goals will be measured; and (c) be
10 submitted to the governor and the legislature upon completion. The
11 health care authority and the department of social and health services
12 shall report to the legislature by September 1, 2008. Any component of
13 the plan that links payment to dental care provider performance must be
14 submitted to the legislature for consideration prior to implementation
15 by the health care authority or the department of social and health
16 services.

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